

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY, SF

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANESE EVENTS

SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF HOUGHTON MACK MISSION LIMITED BUT SEIZED UPON BY EGYPTIAN GAZETTE FOR ATTACK ON U.S. AL PLODS TOWARDS SUMMIT. SYRIA REPORTED IN AGREEMENT, WHICH MAY PRECIPITATE MOVEMENT. OTHER LEBANON DIPLOMACY MENTIONED, INCLUDING AL-KHULI DEPARTURE FOR DAMASCUS AND POSSIBLE SYRIAN VISITS BY SARKIS AND FRANJIYA. PRESS SCORES SYRIA.

1. HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION AND US "SCHEME" IN LEBANON. COVERAGE OF HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION TO LEBANESE RIGHTISTS WAS LIMITED TO REPORT THAT TWO MET WITH FRANKIYA AUGUST 23 AND HAD FURTHER TALKS WITH SARKIS. JUMBLATT QUOTED AS SAYING HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MISSION BUT BELIEVES US WANTS TO SEE WAR IN LEBANON CONTINUE FOR BENEFIT OF ISRAEL. IN HIS VIEW, US COULD END THE WAR IF IT CHOSE TO. HE ASKS FOR INTERVENTION OF "FREE WORLD" (PRESUMABLY NEW TERM FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USSR) TO PUT END TO FIGHTING.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE GAZETTE BUILT AGGRESSIVELY ANTI -USEDITORIAL AROUND HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION AND JUMBLATT'S COMMENTS WHICH UNFORTUNATELY SEEMS ACCURATELY TO REFLECT WIDELY HELD CONCERN HERE. THRUST OF ARTICLE IS THAT CONNECTION MUST EXIST BETWEEN US MISSION, CHAMOUNSIT OBDOURACY AND CONTINUATION OF WAR. CHAMOUN IS "AMERICAN STOOGE OF LONG STANDING", BEGINNING WITH HIS REQUEST FOR AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN 1958. TODAY, EVIDENCE MOUNTS IN SUPPORT OF CONTENTIONS THAT "AMERICAN DIPLOMACY" HAS ARRANGED FOR SYRIAN INTERVENTION AT SIDE OF MARONITES FREE FROM ISRAELI REACTION. SYRIANS HAVE "CLEARLY FALLEN FOR US-ZIONIST BLANDISHMENTS", MOST LIKELY A SLICE OF LEBANON, IN EXCHANGE FOR CESSION OF GOLAN AND CRUSHING OF PALESTINAINS. JUMBLATT CORRECT IN SAYING THAT US WANTS TO SEE WAR CONTINUE FOR BENEFIT OF ISRAEL AND US INTENTIONS NOW COMING OUT INTO OPEN WITH HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION" "A STEP TO RECOGNITION OF A PERMANENTLY DIVIDED LEBANON."

EDITORIAL

ASKS IF STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO DECLARE OPPOSITION TO PARTITION AND WHY ARABS DO NOT DEMAND SUCH A STATEMENT. (COMMENT: DEPT SPOKESMAN'S USEFUL REMARKS AUG 23 HAVE BEEN ISSUED AS USIS PRESS RELEASE).

3. SUMMIT ON LEBANON. AL'S EMBARRASSINGLY SLOW PROGRESS TOWARDS ARAB SUMMIT WAS TACTFULLY OVERLOOKED BY PRESS. ALL PAPERS, HOWEVER, TERSELY REPORT OFFICIAL SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO SUMMIT, NOTIFIED IN KHADDAM CABLE TO MAHMUD RIAD. (COMMENT: IT POSSIBLE THAT SOME ARABS HAVE HEDGED OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE OF SUMMIT PROPOSAL WHILE AWAITING CLARIFICATION OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS. WITH SYRIAN AGREEMENT, THEY MAY NOW BE WILLING TO ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR SUMMIT.)

4. IN REPORTS OF OTHER LEBANON DIPLOMACY, AHAM QUOTED SYRIAN COLONEL HASSAN IN BEIRUT AS SAYING SARKIS WOULD VISIT DAMASCUS AT ASAD INVITATION BEFORE ASSUMING PRESIDENCY. CAIRO RADIO CLAIMED FRANJIYA ALSO LIKELY INVITEE. AL REP AL-KHULI LEFT CAIRO FOR DAMASCUS WITHOUT FANFARE AUGUST 23. HE WILL PROCEED FROM THERE TO BERITU "IN FINAL ATTEMPT TO PREVENT CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF SITUATION".
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5. GUMHURRIYA SCOOPED OTHER DAILIES WITH REPORT FROM WELL INFORMED SOURCES IN BERITU THAT SYRIANS NOW PREPARING TO OCCUPY LEBANESE CAPITAL. AHAM FOUND ROOM FOR INDIGNATION ON FRONT PAGE FOR AFP ITEM FROM TEL AVIV QUOTING "GRAND RABBI OF MEXICO" HERSHBERG THAT SAD HAS ASSURED HIM THAT JEWS IN SYRIA WILL BE ALLOWED TO JOIN FAMILIES IN ISRAEL. AHAM NOTED AFP COMMENT THAT THIS NEWS WELCOME IN ISRAEL

BECAUSE THERE ARE 4000 (SIC) JEWS IN SYRIA (TO ADD TO ISRAELI
RANKS) AND IDEA FITS IN WITH SYRIAN-ISRAELI MOVEMENT TOWARDS
OPENING OF GOLAN BORDER. GUMHURRIYA EDITORIAL ON SYRIAN-
ISRAELI COMPLICITY BROKE NO NEW GROUND IN DENOUCING "FACE
OF TREASON" OF SYRIAN BA-ATH.
EILTS

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